

## Crabtree to command ARPC



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree



Col. William Flanigan

By Sandra Pishner  
 — Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — Leading a busy C-17 wing of about 2,400 may seem like a walk in the park compared to his next assignment. Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree, 446th Airlift Wing commander, will take command of the Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, Colo., sometime this fall.

Serving at McChord since August 2003, General Crabtree

will hand over command of the wing to Col. William Flanigan. Colonel Flanigan is currently the commander of the 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland International Airport, Ore. He has served for more than 30 years, active and Reserve, flying both the KC-135 and KC-10.

In his new position, General Crabtree will oversee a mission of providing personnel and

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## 446th AES takes all 6 AFRC awards

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — The 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron swept the Air Force Reserve Command's aeromedical evacuation awards.

Six categories comprise the awards and an Airman in the 446th AES was named the best in each category, according to an AFRC news release March 30.

The award categories and 446th AES winners are: Operational Support Officer of the Year - Lt. Col. Michael Gainer; Crew Member Officer of the Year - Maj. Judith Krill; Operational Support Senior NCO of the Year - Master Sgt. Patricia Martin; Crew Member Senior NCO of the Year - Master Sgt. Jenaro Wirth; Operational Support NCO of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Kristina Kelpis; and Crew Member NCO of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Kristy Wellman.

Col. Jan Moore-Harbert, commander of the 446th AES, said the entire unit is made up of people whose talents contribute daily to the success of their mission.

"They sustain themselves at the tempo they do because they are dedicated professionals who know that what they do and how they do it makes a significant impact on the lives of the wounded they have



Photo by Sandra Pishner

**Tech. Sgt. Kristy Wellman, left, works with Maj. Easter Aubert during an aeromedical evacuation exercise May 10. Sergeant Wellman is one of six Airmen in the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to earn an Air Force Reserve Command award.**

been transporting for the past four years," she said.

"The bottom line is that the 446th AES

is the best and I am proud to not only be their commander, but to serve with them," said Colonel Moore-Harbert.

**The 446th Associate Press**  
Volume 29, No. 5  
May 2007

May 23 is the deadline for articles in the June issue of **The 446th Associate Press**.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

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# Rodeo, Air Force anniversary loom in our collective future

By Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree  
■ Wing commander

As the summer season approaches, there are two points of focus for all of us. First there are the two upcoming major events - the Air Mobility Command's Rodeo competition and the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force. The other point of focus is the 101 Critical Days of Summer and the safety concerns that come with them.

The Rodeo and 60th Anniversary events should be fun and a chance to compete with our peers. The safety issues are a concern in our civilian jobs and military duty, but more importantly we must focus on safety as we enjoy the active summer season with our families and friends to ensure they are also safe.

The plans and preparations for Rodeo are getting into full swing. The commander's calls during the June UTAs are intended to introduce the whole wing populace to the teams that will be competing.

We intend to make it a fun event and after the formal meeting, we'll offer Rodeo merchandise for purchase and have a cookout to raise support for the teams. Please come prepared to support our teams and start the festivities for this Summer's Rodeo. McChord has always been the team to beat in Rodeo competitions; this year will be no different.

If you have not heard, this year marks the 60th year of the existence of the Air Force as a separate service. We split off from the Army on Sept. 18, 1947. To celebrate and

commemorate that event, we will be having three opportunities for Reservists and active-duty Airmen to participate in marking that key point in U.S. military history.

The first event will be a "pass in review" ceremony in conjunction with our 62nd Airlift Wing partners. It will occur on Aug. 23 and will be a great chance to show our military pride in our heritage.

Many of you will be asked to participate and I would ask you to be sure and invite your families and community leaders to come out and attend, if they are available. Parades are always painful to prepare for, but a great pride-building exercise when they are performed and a real reminder that we have a strong military heritage to carry on into the future.

The second event will be a base-wide picnic on Sept. 8. The 446th Airlift Wing will host that event and we are looking for all of our Reservists, present and past, to come out and spend an enjoyable afternoon socializing and commemorating the base's history in a comfortable social environment.

Please give us any suggestions to make this a great event and invite past unit members you may have contact with to attend. We want an opportunity for our people to have a fun time telling their "war stories" and remembrances to each other as we look back on the proud history of airlift operations here at McChord AFB.

The third event will be the military ball on Sept. 15. This will be the formal, crowning event for the 60th anniversary celebration. The dinner and



Brig. Gen. Eric Crabtree

ball have always been a wonderful event. This year's looks to be even bigger and more of a significant social event. Please tell your spouses and significant others about it early so they can plan to attend. We would like to have an entire hangar full of proud Air Force Reserve Airmen in their finest gear to finish off our heritage year.

Finally, it would not be May if we didn't remind all of you to be safe as you start into the summer season. The 101 Critical Days of Summer are truly that.

The outdoor activities we enjoy in the Pacific Northwest all have a degree of risk involved and we need all of you to be back in fine health in September. Please use the Operational Risk Management checklists, mental or written, in all of your activities to keep yourselves and your friends and families safe. We all need some relaxation and fun in this hectic time, just don't let anyone get hurt in that enjoyment.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at the 60th anniversary events!



# Summer safety critical to mission

## Practice ORM as you navigate 101 days of fun, sun and risks

By Staff Sgt. Nick Przybyciel  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – With warm weather just around the corner, the Air Force is doing its best to prevent off-duty fatalities, which typically spike during the summer months.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer, an Air Force safety awareness program that began in the early 1980s, begins May 26. Wing safety Airmen are already gearing up for the season.

“Summer is a wonderful time to relax, enjoy the outdoors and to spend time with friends and family,” said Maj. Kevin Welin, 446th Airlift Wing chief of safety. “It is also a time that the numbers of accidents and fatalities go up. Do not let your guard down or fail to use your common sense - this will only lead to foolish things.”

To help Reservists avoid those “foolish things,” the Airmen in the wing safety office will be on the offensive.

“We’ll be sending out briefings to safety reps, and then we’ll have a mass briefing in June, to remind everyone about hazards and ways they can minimize their risks,” said Tech. Sgt. Michael Engstrom, from the 446th Airlift Wing safety office.

Last summer, the Air Force witnessed a continuing trend in decreased fatalities. Overall, there were 18 fatalities, compared to 29 the year before.

“Since 2001, we’ve seen the numbers decreasing steadily,” Sergeant Engstrom said.

He attributes a drop in fatalities to awareness programs such as 101 Critical Days of Summer.

“I think [awareness programs] coupled with the Wingman program is responsible for the drop in fatalities. Most of it is just watching out for your buddy,” said Sergeant Engstrom. “During the summer, people are out there water skiing, hiking – doing all those things – mainly with friends. They need to look out for each other.”

The 2006 campaign focused on motorcycle mishaps, an area considered to be

preventable by Air Force leaders.

“Last year, we had a big push on motorcycle safety. As a result, motorcycle fatalities went down by 30 percent. That will still be targeted this year. The Air Force is encouraging riders to take the experienced rider course,” Sergeant Engstrom said.

The Reserve safety representatives here will also push messages tailored to this geographical location.

“For the Northwest in general, we emphasize water safety and (responsible) alcohol usage,” Sergeant Engstrom said.

Every year, according to the safety NCO, the safety office staff sees a lot of people in this area who drown because of drinking alcohol and swimming.

Adequate preparation is another way to avoid having a day in the park turn into a disaster.

“Poor planning when people go out on their day trips is usually what gets them in trouble,” Sergeant Engstrom said.

Not using sound decision-making also gets Reservists in trouble. Using operational risk management principles should help with that aspect of staying safe.

“The ORM principles work on or off duty and should be a normal way of decision making,” said Major Welin. “We have several resources for folks to learn more about ORM – what it is and how to use it.”

The 101 Critical Days of Summer awareness program will run until Sept. 5.

ORM, 101 Critical Days of Summer and safety-related articles can be found at



U.S. Air Force graphic

the following Web links:

**446 AW/SE Share Point**

<https://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/AWstaff/SE/default.aspx>

**Air Force Safety Center 101 Critical Days of summer 2007 Safety Campaign**

<http://afsafety.af.mil/seg/101Days/101Days.shtml>

**Air Force Safety Center 2007 Holiday Safety Campaign**

[http://afsafety.af.mil/seg/Holiday\\_Safety/Holiday\\_Safety.shtml](http://afsafety.af.mil/seg/Holiday_Safety/Holiday_Safety.shtml)

**AFRC 101 Critical Days of summer 2007 Safety Campaign**

[https://wwwmil.se.afrc.af.mil/101\\_Days/AFRC\\_101\\_Days\\_of\\_Summer.htm](https://wwwmil.se.afrc.af.mil/101_Days/AFRC_101_Days_of_Summer.htm)

**AFRC ORM advisor and safety Page**

<https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/orm/advisor.htm>

# Reservist consults for Air Force top doc

By Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz

Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — A McChord Reservist is now also the chief flight nurse consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General.

Maj. Carolyn “C.J.” Newhouse, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, is the first and only Reservist in this position.

This is a three-year appointed position open to all flight nurses across all Air Force major commands, providing a great opportunity to work with dynamic people, said Major Newhouse.

Applicants had to meet a number of qualifications and be nominated by their commander. Col. Jan Moore-Harbert, 446th AES commander, said she nominated Major Newhouse based on her experience both on and off the field.

“She has a history of recent deployments and great experience on the clinical side of the house,” said Colonel Moore-Harbert.

As a chief consultant, Major Newhouse is the ambassador in her field for the surgeon general. Consultants must look at problems and new scenarios that arise while they are in the field, and create ideas for better patient care to present to the surgeon general.



Photo by Senior Airman Desiree Kiliz

**Maj. C.J. Newhouse, right, leads 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron Airmen in a review of training records. Major Newhouse, a flight nurse with the 446th AES, also serves as the flight nurse consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General.**

“If I can touch base with units, they can give me input and I can give those ideas to Lt. Gen. (Dr. James) Roudebush and that will (improve) patient care,” said Major Newhouse. “It also lets nurses know there is

someone they can present their suggestions and problems to.”

In addition to training and patient care,

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## CRABTREE

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administrative support to more than 1.2 million Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces.

“General (John) Bradley (commander of Air Force Reserve Command) asked if I’d considering taking on this position. He wanted a general officer in command because of the importance of providing personnel support to our Reserve and Guard Airmen. And, that importance is reflected on the active duty side where they have a general officer in charge,” said General Crabtree. “We should be on par with the active duty because of the scope of the job, particularly with today’s increased reliance on Reserve

and Guard Airmen.”

Providing personnel support these days often comes via a Web site, such as the virtual Military Personnel Flight, or vMPF. But keeping it real for the customer is vital.

“While the position traditionally has been held by someone from the personnel career field, General Bradley wanted someone from the user end to help channel our focus even more to the customers,” said the general. “It will be a challenge. We’ll need to figure out how to implement automation of personnel actions while remaining responsive to people in the field.”

As General Crabtree’s focus shifts from the operations world to the support world, he marvels

at the tremendous contributions Airmen from the 446th Airlift Wing have made to the post-9/11 world.

“Every where I go in the active-duty world, I find people who are just floored by the flood of Reserve volunteers supporting the high C-17 operations tempo. The number of people we have in the system and on orders is unprecedented, and something of which we can be proud,” said General Crabtree.

“I know I am proud to have been in charge of a wing that has done so much,” the general added. “For Air Mobility Command, which we support, the war starts six months before the first bullet ever flies, and will go on a year or more after the last shot as we move people and

equipment in and out of an AOR (area of responsibility).”

One less operator supporting the C-17 operations tempo will be the general. His new position is not coded as a flying position. However, the thrill of piloting a C-17 Globemaster will be replaced with the thrill of discovering all Colorado has to offer.

“Colorado offers a lot of interesting outdoor activities. And, I have acquaintances from the past who now live in the area, so it will be nice to renew friendships. But, I will also miss all the hardworking, dedicated Airmen from the 446th Airlift Wing. I hope to maintain all the friendships I’ve made here.”



# Australian airmen train on C-17

## Reservist helps teach home station checks

By Capt. Jennifer Gerhardt  
Wing Public Affairs

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** — A Reservist with the 446th Maintenance Squadron went “down under” February through March to instruct Australia’s newest C-17 maintainers on how to keep their new jet flying high.

Tech. Sgt. Jesse Strowbridge led a team of nine maintainers from around the Air Force to Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberly, Australia to train the Aussies’ newest C-17 maintainers on the airplane’s home station check, otherwise known as the 120-day inspection.

“The hardest thing was to temporarily learn and remember all of their maintenance regulations. We often found out a lot of their regulations after the fact,” said Sergeant Strowbridge. “But the best thing about training the Australians was being a part of the coalition building process with one of our closest allies.”

As a Reservist, Sergeant Strowbridge was part of the coalition-building because of his well-regarded skills.

“Sergeant Strowbridge has tremendous knowledge of the entire HSC process,” said Senior Master Sgt. Travis Pritchett, HSC section superintendent for the 446th MXS. “He’s not only extremely knowledgeable when



Photo by Abner Guzman

**Tech. Sgt. Jason Stanelle, 373rd TRS, provides maintenance instruction to an Australian airman. Many McChord-based Airmen are playing a role in developing Australia’s C-17 program, including a Reservist with the 446th Maintenance Squadron.**

it comes to the C-17 aircraft, but he is well versed in process improvement procedures, dock controlling, inspection criteria, and training on all aspects of the HSC process.”

The Australians are receiving four C-17s to replace some of their aging C-130s. Because the Aussie unit was so new to the C-17, there were only 26 maintainers qualified to work on them.

“We weren’t there to teach them how to work on the plane, but more to teach them the process of the home check inspections, give them pointers, and also assist in setting up future C-17 HSC operations,” said Sergeant Strowbridge.

One obstacle all of the maintainers experienced was time. They could only work during daylight hours because there

was no artificial light on the airfield, making the process take more than two weeks. In contrast, at McChord, the inspection turnaround time is usually a few days.

Lack of artificial lighting wasn’t the only thing the U.S. Air Force maintainers had to get used to. There were also different opinions about safety and work methods.

“I think the hardest part about working with [the Aussies] was that they did not have all the equipment needed for the tasks at hand,” said Staff Sgt. Troy Wilson, 62nd Maintenance Squadron, who also went on the trip. “They didn’t have adequate maintenance stands and most tools, but we made due with what they had and got the job done. They wanted to do everything themselves and

we were there just to answer questions and give advice on the HSC process. Overall, it was a very unique experience.”

Another difference was the approach to controlling foreign debris on the flightline. The Australians would walk the flightline and runway each morning to eliminate FOD, but leave their tools on the aircraft when they went to lunch. By contrast, the McChord maintainers conduct bi-weekly FOD walks and don’t leave any tools unsecured.

In addition to sending McChord Airmen to Australia, members of the Royal Australian Air Force are at McChord learning about C-17 avionics in a formal class setting.

In the U.S. Air Force, Airmen in six different specialties are required to maintain the C-17. However, the Australians only have two: mechanics and avionics. Because of this difference, McChord’s instructors had to design special lessons tailored to the Australian specialties. Currently, there are 15 Australian Airmen attending the C-17A Avionics Maintenance Course and 13 attending the C-17A Mechanics Maintenance Course.

Australia received its first C-17 in December 2006 and their second arrives in May. A total of four C-17 are scheduled for delivery to the RAAF by 2008.

*(Staff Sgt. Paul Haley, 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this report.)*

## NEWHOUSE

Continued from Page 4

consultants must also assist in recruiting and retention for the aeromedical evacuation field. In 2006, Air Force flight nurses were 60 percent undermanned.

There are only four active-duty aeromedical evacuation squadrons in the Air Force, which leaves Reservists performing the bulk of aeromedical evacuation mission.

“It is real important we have the right

person to give the input to the surgeon general and Major Newhouse can provide that,” Colonel Moore-Harbert said. “She listens to what her peers have to say and has all the experience for the position.”

# 37 Reservists earn CCAF degrees

**MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash.** – During a graduation ceremony May 4, combining October 2006 and April 2007 graduates, the following Air Force Reservists received their Community College of the Air Force associates in applied science:

## Master Sergeant

David Anderson, 446th AMXS, Avionic Systems Technology

Kelly Henderson, 97th AS, Aviation Operations

Mark Hewitt, 446th AMXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Brian Horton, 97th AS, Aviation Operations

Leo Jenness, 728th AS, Construction Technology

Jeffrey Robertson, 446th CES, Explosive Ordnance Disposal; Criminal Justice

Janice Storbakken, 446th OSF, Communications Applications Technology

## Technical Sergeant

Joshua Craig, 446th LRF, Logistics

David Ewbank, 446th CES, Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Eric Fiedler, 86th APS, Transportation; Criminal Justice

Kristy Fry, 446th MSS, Education and Training Management

Johnathan Goularte, 446th MXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

David Hansen, 446th MSS, Social Services

Thomas Mazzuca, 446th OSF, Aviation Operations

Richard Reed, 446th MSS, Education and Training Management

Conne Schaaf, 446th SFS, Criminal Justice

Jason Steen, 446th SFS, Criminal Justice

Jack Todd, 446th MXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology



Photo by Abner Guzman

**Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Atwell, a University of Phoenix graduate, receives a hug from her son Danny after accepting her college diploma during the combined college graduation held in Hangar 9 on May 4. Sergeant Atwell is a Reservist with the 446th Maintenance Squadron.**

## Staff Sergeant

Sarah Aden, 446th AMDS, Allied Health Sciences and Aviation Operations

Ellen Ayers, 446th MSS, Human Resource Management

Brian Campbell, 313th AS, Aviation Operations

Cristalina Crisostomo, 86th APS, Information Management

Rebeca Forgey, Mechanical and Electrical Technology, 446th CES

Michael Hayes, 446th OSF, Communications Applications Technology

Gary Kaiser, 446th AMXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Natalie King, 446th AMDS, Dental Assisting

Jocelyn Lowe, 86th APS, Transportation

Fern Michael, 446th MSS, Information Management

Martin Peterson, 446th AMXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Alexander Pirolo, 446th AMXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology,

Mary Sayre, 446th AMXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Courtney Andrjeski, 446th MSS, Criminal Justice

Thersha Lewis, 446th CES, Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Jon Iverson, 446th AMXS, Avionic Systems Technology

## Senior Airman

Kalene Kaplan, 446th MXS, Aviation Maintenance Technology

Jake Tiffany, 446th CES, Fire Science

Lyn Yin, 728th AS, Aviation Management



# The Baghdad bullet train

One Reservist's tale of triumph in Southwest Asia

By Staff Sgt. Paul Haley

Wing Public Affairs

Welcome to the bullet train. Those were the words of Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Swarthout to arriving members of the 447th Air Expeditionary Wing, Sather AB, Iraq, where he served for four months as the group superintendent.

Chief Swarthout was in charge of 1,800 people total; 1,500 at Sather AB, and another 300 elsewhere in Iraq.

"Imagine you're standing in your neighborhood. A bullet train comes through at 120 mph, and you just reach out and grab hold. You're instantly going 120, and you do that for 120 days, then you let go and you're suddenly standing back in your neighborhood," he said.

Chief Swarthout, who is assigned to the 86th Aerial Port at McChord, said 12- to 18-hour days were not unusual, and the only way the mission could be accomplished was by using creativity.

"Many people don't think about what it means to be on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation. When we deploy, we have the same mission to perform as when we're home, but we don't have the same resources. It requires extraordinary effort and creativity to get the job done," he said.

One example Chief Swarthout gave of the high operations tempo was the aerial port. There were 60 people working in the aerial port at Sather AB who moved more cargo than the 600 aerial port workers at Ramstein AB, Germany, during the same period.

When Chief Swarthout arrived at Sather AB, there was no dining facility, and people were missing meals regularly. They had to make a one-hour round trip to get to an Army chow hall for meals, and it was difficult to do so. The only other option was to eat Meals Ready to Eat.

Once Chief Swarthout found out about the situation, he went into action to change it. He scrounged food containers from the Army, so that food could be brought to the



Photo provided by Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Swarthout

**Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Swarthout (right) leads his unit on a training run while deployed to Iraq. The chief, assigned to the 86th Aerial Port at McChord, deployed to Iraq for four months.**

base, and he had a postal tent converted to a dining facility. It took only six days before it was fully operational. By the time the permanent dining facility was finished, the temporary facility had served more than 100,000 meals.

Chief Swarthout said he learned two important things while he was deployed. The first was that it's brutal, hard work.

"You will learn more about yourself than you will doing anything else. This is the hardest I've ever had to work," he said.

The second thing he learned was an even greater appreciation for the Air Force Reserve.

"I really saw how much the Air Force needs us (Reservists). Doing annual tour and things, I always thought we were useful. But Reservists bring innovation and creativity. On active duty, people do things that may not make sense in combat, but that's the way they're always done. Reservists ask why things are done that way, and if it doesn't make sense, they change it," Chief Swarthout said.

The need for change was apparent with the Baghdad International Airport control tower. When the chief first deployed and went into the tower, he saw four American controllers and about 30 Iraqis. The tower was trying to get International Civil Aviation Organization certification, and was having trouble. One air traffic controller was a Reservist, who also works as a controller in his civilian career. This Reservist made a list of changes needed to gain certification, which included securing the tower. During security screenings, several of the Iraqi trainees stopped coming to work.

Though Chief Swarthout and his team tackled head-on the problems they encountered, there is still plenty of work for anyone else preparing to deploy.

"Every team that deploys will have its own set of circumstances to overcome. It's those shared experiences that make a deployment so memorable," he said.

Memorable - like hanging on to a bullet train going 120 mph.



# SAFETY



## Remember When

May. 20, 1951  
-- Capt. James Jabara becomes the world's first jet ace, shooting down his fifth and sixth MiGs in the Korean War.

## Promotions

### Captain

Daniel O'Keefe, 313th AS

### Senior Master Sergeant

David Austin, 446th AMXS

### Master Sergeant

Derek Abdella, 86th APS  
Anna Friscia, 446th AES  
Shellie Harris, 446th AMDS  
Ronald Janisch, 446th AMXS

### Technical Sergeant

Selina Barone, 446th AES  
Christopher Boggs, 446th AES  
Joseph Brown, 728th AS  
Freddie Gann, 446th AES  
Susan Ingram, 446th LRF  
Anna Jezek, 446th AMXS  
Andrew Shoot, 728th AS  
Robin Smith, 446th AMXS

### Staff Sergeant

Lawrence Denis, 446th LRF  
Casey Drab, 446th SFS  
Sandra Hughes, 446th AW  
Marcee Lewis, 446th MXS  
Harold Smith, 446th CES  
John Wentworth, 446th AMXS

### Senior Airman

David Garske, 446th AMXS

Chris Harper, 446th AMDS  
Cameron Hutchings, 446th AMXS  
Collan Knutson, 446th MXS  
Sydney Reed, 446th AES  
Chris Roberts, 446th AMXS  
Joseph Vargo, 446th SVF

## Newcomers

### Captain

Jessica Ditson, 313th AS  
James Ryan, 446th AES

### Technical Sergeant

Tonya Davis, 446th AW  
John Garrelts, 86th APS  
Howard Hagedorn, 446th AMXS  
Tuan Nguyen, 86th APS

### Staff Sergeant

Courtney Andrejeski, 446th MSS  
Joshua Brown, 86th APS  
Alfred Dodd, 446th AMXS  
Geoffrey Francis, 446th AES  
Richard McFadden, 728th AS  
Paul Nelson, 446th AMXS  
Kurt Ronhovde, 446th MXS  
Jesse Schweizer, 446th MXS  
James Sharpe, 446th SFS  
Nathan Stull, 446th SFS  
Brandon Taylor, 446th MXS  
Travis Warwick, 446th SFS  
Bradley Wilson, 446th SFS

### Senior Airman

Peter Gavigan, 313th AS  
Vincent Howard, 446th MXS  
Brandon Lee, 36th APS  
Raquel Onedera, 446th MXG  
Charles Pickle, 446th CES  
Chad Rasmussen, 728th AS  
Ethan Tanner, 446th AMXS  
William Thayer, 446th LRF

### Airman First Class

Joshua Barry, 446th MXS  
Grey Bashore, 446th AMXS  
Janelle Bowers, 446th MSS  
Nathan Debord, 446th AMXS  
Travis Ringel, 446th MXS

## Retirements

### Lieutenant Colonel

Edwin Woodward, 97th AS

### Major

Benjamin Wool, 97th AS

### Master Sergeant

Douglas Jones, 446th AMXS  
Gary West, 446th AMXS  
Kevin Zweber, 446th CES

### Technical Sergeant

David Cassie, 446th AMXS  
Dean Docken, 446th MXS  
Darin Prince, 446th AMXS



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Craig Johnson, 313th AS Unit Public Affairs Representative

## Limo line up: 313th Airlift Wing supports Cheney's travels

Logging 45 flight hours and five trans-Atlantic crossings, a 313th Airlift Squadron aircrew provided airlift support for Vice President Dick Cheney while he embarked on a relationship building tour of the Middle East May 10. Lead by Maj. Leo Synoracki, aircraft commander, the 313th AS aircrew transported security vehicles, equipment and support equipment.



# Just Briefly

## What is your best safety tip for a safe summer?

### Awareness

My best advice would be situational awareness. There are so many different activities happening in the summer so being aware of your situation is important.



◆ Capt. Cindy Bass  
446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

### Sunscreen

When doing activities outdoors, make sure to wear sunscreen or other proper protective equipment.



◆ Master Sgt. Jason Hunter  
86th Aerial Port Squadron

### Hydrate

Make sure you stay hydrated, especially if you're in the sun for a long time.



◆ Senior Airman Jamie Miller  
97th Airlift Squadron

### Risk management

Apply risk management on and off duty with the intent to make it back home to your family.



◆ Maj. Kevin Welin  
446th Airlift Wing

## Wing Commander's Calls in June

Wing Commander's Calls will be in June on Sunday of each UTA. The start time is 10 a.m., at Hangar 5. The program includes showcasing the wing's 2007 Rodeo team, recognize the Operation Deep Freeze team, and presenting the prestigious Bronze Star to Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Swarthout. After the commander's calls, there will be a Rodeo barbecue lunch. For more information contact the wing executive officers at 982-5526.

## 60th Anniversary Ball is Sept. 15

The 60th Anniversary of the Air Force will be celebrated with a formal ball in Hangar 3, Sept. 15. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Chief Master Sgt. Dave Marston at 982-8372.

## Validate civilian employment information annually via Web

Annual validation of Reservists' civilian employment is required of all Airmen (except AGRs). Airmen will use a self-service application to provide civilian employment information. Log on using your CAC Card at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>. If you have any questions about this requirement, call 446th Mission Support Squadron's Military Personnel Flight at 982-9094.

## The 446th Airlift Wing initiates Civilian of the Year program

The 446th Airlift Wing staff has initiated a program to recognize the wing's outstanding civilians. The semi-annual program recognizes an outstanding civilian supervisor and non-supervisor covering a six month period. The first nomination packages are due June 22. More details on format for nomination packages will follow.

## Public Web site holds key to news, information from wing

A free, public Web site caters to the needs of 446th Airlift Wing people.

The Web site contains news from the wing as well as news and photos from around the Air Force Reserve Command and Air Force. More than that, the wing's home page gives practical information, like UTA schedules, fact sheets, biographies and video from Air Force Television News.

Check it out at [www.446aw.afrc.af.mil](http://www.446aw.afrc.af.mil).

## Wing Airman one of Reserve command's outstanding Airmen

Senior Airman Nicole Cyrus, 728th Airlift Squadron, was named by Air Force Reserve Command as one of the command's

2007 Ten Outstanding Young Americans.

## Wing nurse among Association of Military Surgeons' best

Lt. Col. Stacia Deshon, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, was named as the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States' 2007 Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to a Non-Deployable Medical Unit.

## AFRC's best civilian information specialist serves 446th AW

Air Force Reserve Command people from California to North Carolina stepped up to earn command war fighting and integration and chief information officer special trophies and awards for 2006. Among them is Tom Henry, 446th Mission Support Squadron, in the civilian technician category. He is also known around the wing as Senior Master Sergeant Henry when in Reserve status.

## PEP nominations due June 5

The PEP board for cycle 07-B will be held on June 26-27. Nomination packages must be received in 446th Mission Support Squadrons career enhancement flight June 5. Packages received after this date will be returned to the unit. All information, letters and forms needed, can be found on the following Web site:

[http://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/446MSG/446MSS/Military\\_Personnel\\_Flight/DPM-SCE/446AW%20PEP%20Information%20and%20Forms/Forms/AllItems.aspx](http://446aw.mcchord.af.mil/446MSG/446MSS/Military_Personnel_Flight/DPM-SCE/446AW%20PEP%20Information%20and%20Forms/Forms/AllItems.aspx)

## Commander approves 2008 unit training assembly schedule

The following is the UTA schedule for fiscal year 2008. Reservists are encouraged to share their UTA schedule with their civilian employers as far in advance as possible.

	A	B
Oct	13-14	20-21
Nov	3-4	17-18
Dec	1-2	8-9
	MXG, MOF & MXS A UTA, AMXS A and B UTA	
Jan	12-13	26-27
Feb	9-10	23-24
Mar	8-9	15-16
Apr	5-6	19-20
May	3-4	17-18
Jun	7-8	21-22
Jul	12-13	26-27
Aug	9-10	23-24
	(All MXG on B UTA for Family Day)	
Sep	6-7	20-21

# Three Portland units inactivate

By Maj. James Wilson

■ —939th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—More than 500 people attended a formal ceremony here May 6 in which three of the 939th Air Refueling Wing's units were inactivated. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission mandated the draw down.

During the ceremony, wing Reservists, distinguished guests from Oregon and Washington, veterans and family members witnessed the encasing of the 939th Operations Group, 939th Maintenance Group and the 83rd Aerial Port Squadron's flag and guidon. The act symbolized the closure of the units and the end of 45 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

"It's a tough thing to do - to close a wing - and we're doing it in several places," said Lt. Gen. John Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command. "We've been here as the 939th for over 45 years and had Reservists operating out of Portland for 50 years. It's a very hard thing for us to have to move out."

The general explained the cost savings realized through BRAC does stand to benefit the service long-term. However, the cost, he explained, comes in the form of Reservists being moved out of a number of communities across America, diminishing the ties Citizen Airmen have with those

they serve and protect.

"You've got a great history here that spans many years and many kinds of airplanes and different missions," he said. "It's a hard thing to let go. This is a unit of dedicated professional and highly training Airmen. You've flown thousands of sorties and off loaded millions of gallons of jet fuel to refuel airplanes that are defending America and helping those forces in combat. I can't thank you enough."

General Bradley issued a personal thanks to the 939th members for "every single day spent away from jobs and families."

He concluded his remarks by saying, "I understand the pain of leaving a great unit ... leaving a great community. We've done it in a lot of places recently, and I can't think of anything I like doing less. I want you to know your leadership appreciates you and what you do. My prayers are with you."

In a final show of recognition, General Bradley presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award streamer to Col. William Flanigan, the commander of the 939th ARW who, in turn, placed it on the wing's flag.

"This ceremony marks the closure of a chapter on the long and storied history of the Reserve here at Portland," Colonel Flanigan said. "It's not the end of the book - it's the closing of a chapter."

The colonel lauded the contributions of former 939th members in attendance.

"Thank you for setting the bar so high for us," Colonel Flanigan said. "You have indeed given us a rich history and provided many storied accomplishments to look up to as our inspiration."

"To the men and women of the 939th, you have shown throughout much adversity, a change in mission, many diversions and personal sacrifice that you can stay mission focused," he said. "You all have earned the Outstanding Unit Award in spades. I could not be prouder of you for that accomplishment."

Members of the unit showed mix emotions after the ceremony.

"It's a very difficult time for us," said Staff Sgt. Richard Sakasitz, 939th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron member and crew chief for the last KC-135 mission in Oregon. "I enjoyed the ceremony, but will very much miss the people and friends I've made here in the 939th. It's sad to see it go."

The Air Force Reserve assigned the mission of global air refueling to the 939th ARW in April 2003. At the same time, it designated the 304th Rescue Squadron (also at Portland) a geographically separated unit responsible for combat search and rescue. The 304th RQS is scheduled to continue operating in Portland. The remaining units of the 939th ARW will close June 2008. (*Air Force Reserve Command News Service*)

## Air Force News At A Glance

**Air Force unveils associate-to-baccalaureate program for Airmen who are CCAF graduates**

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Bates  
*Air Force News Agency*

**MAXWELL-GUNTER AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AF-NEWS)** – A new program developed by Air University allows Airmen to turn a Community College of the Air Force associate's degree into a bachelor's from an accredited university.

The Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative, or ABC, does this by establishing a partnership with various civilian higher-education institutions to offer four-year degree opportunities via distance learning. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123050966>

**Air Force Marathon a premier running event**

by Kathleen A.K. Lopez  
*Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs*

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AF-NEWS)** – If you think you have one good reason for not running the U.S. Air Force Marathon Sept. 15, here are five excellent reasons why you should.

For starters, it's the only marathon in the world where runners receive inspiration and encouragement from the skies above, as Air Force aircraft fly overhead continuously throughout the race. <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123050682>

**Editor's Note:** *Air Force News – At A Glance* features the top stories on the Air Force News web site recommended by Air Force Leaders as essential reading. For the full story, type the hyperlink into your web browser.



# myPay adds new security measures

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNEWS) – A new security feature has been added to protect myPay customers' data on the pay account system.

As part of an on-going commitment to strengthen password and account security, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented the "virtual keyboard" to assist in protecting against malicious software such as spyware, trojans and keylogging.

"This is a significant move toward adding yet another layer of security to our myPay system," said Pat Shine, director of operations for DFAS. "We want to reassure our customers that we are pro actively working to secure their pay account information."

Beginning in mid-May, when a user logs on to myPay, the virtual keyboard will appear on the screen. The user will type in a login ID and then the user will mouse click

his or her Personal Identification Number on the keyboard pictured.

To enhance security, the keyboard layout changes or keys are displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed.

DFAS uses a variety of security features to protect data on the myPay system, yet users are asked to personally protect data on home computers.

For frequently asked questions about myPay, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

## McChord Reservist safely lands C-17

# Pilot earns Distinguished Flying Cross

By Staff Sgt. Amy Abbott

452nd Air Mobility Wing

**MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif.** – A March Field pilot who received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions in Iraq was honored April 9 at the Los Angeles Dodgers season-opening baseball game.

Maj. Paul Sonstein, a Air Force Reserve C-17 pilot who was then stationed with the 446th Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash., was flying continuous missions back and forth from Iraq. On Dec. 9, 2003, it happened.

That day, just as he, his crew of four others and a cargo full of troops and supplies were leaving the Baghdad International Airport, his number two engine was hit by enemy ground fire.

"Initially I was scared," he said.

Major Sonstein credits C-17 simulator training as well as his co-pilots and loadmasters pulling together and working as a team for the safe landing.

"It was actually easier than the simulator."

They returned to the airport and everyone evacuated safely. Major Sonstein made his way from the C-17 as fire trucks swarmed around it, working to



Courtesy photo

**Maj. Paul Sonstein, a former 446th Airlift Wing pilot, is honored at a Los Angeles Dodgers game April 9 for his actions after his C-17 was hit by enemy ground fire in Iraq. Major Sonstein earned a Distinguished Flying Cross.**

put out the flames.

"It felt awesome to get off the aircraft and to look back and to be on the ground."

Yet, when asked if he felt like a hero, he humbly said, "Not me. The crew all came together, and we just did what we were supposed to do."

Major Sonstein and crew were presented Air Medals by Vice President Dick Cheney less than two weeks later.

Shortly later, the major's medal and those of the two others responsible for the actual flying of the aircraft were upgraded to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Now assigned to the 452nd Air Mobility Wing's current operations staff, the self-proclaimed "huge Dodgers fan" became a bit anxious prior to stepping onto the field next to the likes of Nomar Garciaparra,

Derek Lowe, Jason Schmidt and the rest of the five-time World Series championship team.

His parents flew in from Hawaii to attend the game with him and his girlfriend.

"I was very nervous to be out there in front of everyone. I could see my mom, dad and uncle in their seats, which was really great. It was pretty overwhelming to face the sea of people as I stood on the field when they read my name."

With the American flag in the background and Little Leaguers lined up along the infield, Major Sonstein was introduced to a crowd that greeted him with a thunderous roar.

"They said I was there because of my participation in Iraq and that I had been awarded in person with a medal by the vice president. Everyone clapped. It made me feel really proud to be an American."

After the presentation, he stood in front as "America the Beautiful" and the National Anthem were sung. Despite all of the hoopla, his favorite part of the day was just getting to watch the game. The Dodgers ended up losing to the Colorado Rockies 6-3.

# Joint training aims to save lives

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski  
 Joint Task Force Alaska

**NORTH POLE, Alaska (AFNEWS)**—In a unified effort to save lives and protect vital infrastructure facilities, Airmen, Soldiers and civilian first responders trained together May 9 as they responded to a mass casualty exercise scenario.

The training event was part of Alaska Shield/Northern Edge, Alaska's portion of an annual national training exercise designed to hone interagency cooperation. Running through May 18, organizations from all levels of local and federal government trained together in mock crisis situations ranging from natural disasters to terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

In a multiple vehicle improvised explosive attack scenario, simulated terrorists attacked the North Pole Refinery Complex - a location linked to the state's energy sector.

"We practiced it and worked to get it right so the citizens of Alaska can feel safe," said Army Maj. Gen. Craig Campbell, the Alaska Adjutant General. "State, local and federal government agencies are prepared to respond and work fluidly together to take care of people in an emergency situation."

In addition, several government and civic leaders observed the training scenario so they could see firsthand how effectively the military and civilian agencies would respond to a real-world emergency, said Lt. Gen. Douglas Fraser, Alaska Command commander.

"An exercise like this is all about supporting the state and its people," General Fraser said. "It provides us an opportunity to further build a relationship with our civilian neighbors and demonstrate the importance of



Photo by Sandra Pishner

**Staff Sgt. April Jefferson, 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, helps simulated ambulatory patients off a C-130 from Alaska during a national exercise May 10.**

homeland security and homeland defense."

More than 150 "victims" were involved in the train-

ing event. The medical teams were a mix of Total Force and civilian responders. National Guard Soldiers from Nebraska;

Air National Guardsmen from Kulis Air National Guard Base, Alaska and active-duty volunteers from nearby Eielson AFB participated, as well as firefighters and other civilian emergency technicians from around the local area. Even Reservists from the 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 446th Aeromedical Staging Squadron played a role, as a C-130 flown by the Alaska Air National Guard landed at McChord with simulated patients.

Overall, more than 5,000 people across the state are involved in the training exercise, according to Lt. Col. Larry Bowers, Alaska Command plans and programs director.

"This is good training for senior leaders and first responders about how the military can augment civilian agencies and meet the state's training goals," Colonel Bowers said. "But the training won't stop with these two weeks; the exercise is merely validation to assess capabilities. Training goes on always and as a nation, we must constantly be aware, on alert and ready to assist whenever we can."

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